

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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SUBJECT	Merchants' Trading Bureau	DATE DISTR.	14 February 1955	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. István Agardi, the managing director of the Merchants' Trading Bureau (Kereskedők Aruforgalmi Irodája) is the Party representative at this enterprise. His deputy is Valér Kiacz, who holds the position of department head. Agardi is a protégé of Zoltán Vas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, who is the actual initiator of this enterprise. 25X1
2. The establishment of the Merchants' Trading Bureau is experimental, and it is a copy of similar establishments in Yugoslavia. Information on the latter was collected by two Hungarian officials who visited Yugoslavia recently.

1. Comment: If the avowed purpose of Merchants' Trading Bureau is "to centralize, collect, and market all import goods produced by cooperatives and small privately-owned firms" the similarity with its alleged Yugoslav equivalents is not too apparent. Import-export trade in Yugoslavia is officially decentralized. Small firms are encouraged to deal through import-export firms rather than sell to larger firms who deal directly with foreigners. 25X1

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